



## **President's Message - July 2017**

As the hot summer months arrive in Wisconsin, and vacations get underway, your WITESOL volunteers are busier than ever.

In May, Katie Vernezze and Amitha Gone, along with members of MSOE, put on a wonderful spring conference. It was well-attended and chock full of interesting and informative sessions. My thanks go to all who had a hand in organizing this event, and to all the attendees.

Lori Menning, our past President, went to Washington for the TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit in June. Advocacy is as important now as it has always been, so be sure to look at

the resources Lori brought back and posted on our website.

We have a change to announce for our fall conference, coming up in November. Due to a scheduling conflict, Tim Boals and Mariana Castro will not be able to present as our closing plenary speakers. Instead, WIDA's International Programs Director, Jon Nordmeyer, will close the conference. Jon travels far and wide to deliver keynote speeches around the world, and we are privileged to have his, and WIDA's, support. If the dates work, Tim and Mariana have promised to come to our 2018 fall conference. You can read Jon's bio a little bit later in the newsletter.

Our fall conference has attracted a large number of proposals – far more than we can possibly hope to accommodate in one day. Our reviewers, led by Dr. Heather Linville, have a daunting task of whittling down the proposals to a more manageable number. Reviews will be complete by the end of August – so if you have submitted a proposal, you can expect to hear from us at around that time. Remember, we are asking presenters to register early and join WITESOL as a member.

The end of August is also the same time that our early bird registration opens. If you are a WITESOL member in full time employment, you can attend the conference for only \$50 by registering early. The price includes lunch, a keynote, at least three quality presentations, a closing plenary, and the chance to network with colleagues from across the state. The full spread of registration rates, including dates, is below. We are looking forward to seeing you, your friends, and your colleagues there on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Madison Concourse Hotel.

As always, if you have an idea, suggestion, or you want to be more involved, please contact me, Tim Dalby, at [witesol.president@gmail.com](mailto:witesol.president@gmail.com).



Tim Dalby - WITESOL President

**2017 Fall Conference Registration:**

Full Time Professional, earning over \$35,000 per year, or being financially supported to attend or present at the conference	Membership & Registration	Registration only – WITESOL members	Registration only – non-WITESOL members
Early bird (08/28 – 10/06)	\$80	\$50	\$90
Online (10/07 – 10/27)	\$90	\$60	\$100
Walk in (11/04)	\$100	\$70	\$110
Student/Part Time Professional independent and/or earning less than \$35,000 per year	Membership & Registration	Registration only – WITESOL members	Registration only – non-WITESOL members
Early bird (08/28 – 10/06)	\$40	\$25	\$50
Online (10/07 – 10/27)	\$45	\$30	\$55
Walk in (11/04)	\$50	\$35	\$60



Jon Nordmeyer is WIDA's International Programs Director. Jon guides the research, development and implementation of WIDA resources to support English language learners in international schools. He comes to WIDA with more than 25 years of experience teaching at international schools in China, Ecuador, The Netherlands, Taiwan, Turkey and Thailand. He has presented at AAIE, AASSA, ACAMIS, AISA, EARCOS, ECIS, ELLSA, Learning Forward, NFI NESAS and TESOL conferences and has taught graduate seminars at Harvard Graduate School of Education and Tibet University. He has published articles in the Journal of Staff Development and International Schools Journal. He is the co-editor of Integrating Language and Content (TESOL 2010).



## **2017 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit**

### **Lori Menning, WITESOL Past President and Advocacy Chair**

On June 18-20, 2017, I joined 110 other TESOL educators and members of TESOL International Association in Washington, D.C. for the 2017 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit. The program featured two days of issue briefings, breakout sessions and advocacy training, followed by a full

day of visits to Congressional offices on Capitol Hill. With representatives from over 30 U.S. affiliates in attendance, the goals of the Summit were not only to learn more about federal policy issues impacting TESOL educators and our English learners, but also to provide an interactive experience for participants to actively engage in advocacy on behalf of their schools, programs, students and fellow educators.

To fully prepare for the Summit, I completed several important tasks before arriving in Washington, DC, including familiarizing myself with background information on key policy issues such as federal funding for the Every Student Succeeds Act and the BRIDGE Act and scheduling meetings with our local representatives in Congress. To help make the Congressional meetings more effective, we were encouraged to find examples from our own programs to illustrate the talking points for the meetings. That is one of the highlights for me as I enjoying sharing stories of my students and our work in the classroom.

The Summit featured a variety of keynote speakers. From the Office of English Language Acquisition at the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Deputy Secretary Jose

Viana and Deputy Director Supreet Anand shared their current work on how we can stay connected. In addition, representatives from the Office of Career, Adult and Technical Education at the U.S. Department of Education, as well as the Student & Exchange Visitor Program at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, each presented updates from their offices. The Summit also included presentations from the American Federation of Teachers, National Skills Coalition and Migrant Legal Action Program. Diane Staehr Fenner, author of the book titled *Advocating for English Learners: A Guide for Educators*, gave a luncheon keynote highlighting the leadership skills needed to advocate for English Learners during challenging times.

Following the breakout policy sessions, the Summit shifted its focus to advocacy with preparations for meetings with members of Congress. This year, I met with staff from the offices of Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Mike Gallagher and Representative Sean Duffy. I also shared folders with the educational staffers of our other local members of congress. By the end of the Summit, we visited the offices of over 140 Representatives and Senators.

The 2017 TESOL Advocacy & Policy Summit was a very

positive and motivating experience, with of course a lot of advocacy work left to be done. Next steps for me include following up with those I met with on Capitol Hill and arranging meetings back in district. In addition, I again extended invitations for our members of congress to visit my bilingual classroom. I look forward to sharing updates with you at the 2017 WITESOL Conference on Saturday, November 4th in Madison. In the meantime, please visit our the WITESOL Advocacy link on our website at <http://witesol.com/advocacy/> for resources to update you on local policy and prepare you to advocate in your school, district and community. Also, be sure to follow us on social media for additional updates!



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English as a Second Language  
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PRESENTS

# WITESOL FALL CONFERENCE

REFLECTIVE TEACHING, TEACHING REFLECTION:  
MEETING THE NEEDS OF LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Saturday, November 4th

Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin

Opening Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Thomas S.C. Farrell  
Brock University



Closing Plenary Speaker:

Jon Nordmeyer  
WIDA



Plus Fabulous Concurrent Sessions

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#WITESOL17

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